In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add the following new claims:

--9. (New) A method to code and decode digital data transmitted or stored according to the prioritized pixel transmission method, wherein the information to be coded or decoded comprises individual pixel groups, wherein each pixel group has a positional value, at least one pixel value, and a priority value assigned to it, said method comprising at least one key used with which the positional value and/or the pixel value/pixel values of a pixel group are selectively coded or decoded.

10. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the key is selectively linked to the type of information content to be coded and/or to the original source, and/or to the transmission medium used, or it contains a temporal relationship.

11. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein each pixel value, or one or more selected pixel values, are coded or decoded using its own separate key.

12. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein each pixel value, or one or more selected pixel values, are coded or decoded using its own separate key.

13. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein a symmetrical coding method is carried out.

14. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein a symmetrical coding method is carried out.

15. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein a symmetrical coding method is carried out.

16. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein an asymmetrical coding method is carried out.

17. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein an asymmetrical coding method is carried out.

18. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein an asymmetrical coding method is carried out.

19. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein in that the pixel groups are comprised of digitized scanned values of an audio signal.

20. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein in that the pixel groups are comprised of digitized scanned values of an audio signal.

21. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein in that the pixel groups are comprised of digitized scanned values of an audio signal.

22. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the files contain image data, video data or audio data.

23. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the files contain image data, video data or audio data.

24. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the files contain image data, video data or audio data.

25. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the files contain image data, video data or audio data.

26. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the color level of the pixel values is coded or decoded in graduations using a separate key.

27. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the color level of the pixel values is coded or decoded in graduations using a separate key.

28. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein the color level of the pixel values is coded or decoded in graduations using a separate key.

29. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the color level of the pixel values is coded or decoded in graduations using a separate key.--